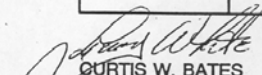


**Forest Plan Amendment Number 17
Custer National Forest
Billings, Montana**

The following table replaces the old table on page 49 of the Forest Management Plan and replaces the table from Forest Plan Amendment Number 3. The name Whitetail Creek is added to this table.

STATE	RANGER DISTRICT	MANAGEMENT AREA	SPECIES OF CONCERN	COMMENTS
Montana	Beartooth	Line Creek Slough Creek Stillwater Meyers Creek Palisades Picket Pin	Elk Grizzly bear Bighorn sheep Elk Moose Elk	Key year-around habitat Mgmt. Situation I Key winter range Key winter range Key habitat area Key winter range
South Dakota	Grand River	Humphrey Draw Horse Pasture Texley Wildlife Area Pasture 9 Wildlife Area Pasture 5A Pasture 6A	Deer, grouse, & waterfowl Deer & grouse Deer & grouse Deer, grouse, & waterfowl Deer, grouse & waterfowl Deer & grouse	Wildlife exclosure Wildlife exclosure Wildlife exclosure Wildlife exclosure Wildlife exclosure Wildlife exclosure
North Dakota	Cedar River	Knispel Wildlife Area North Community	Deer, grouse & waterfowl Deer & grouse	Security area Security area
South Dakota	Sioux	Rimrock Ecosystem	Raptors	Key habitat areas
Montana	Sioux	Rimrock Ecosystem	Raptors	Key habitat areas
North Dakota	Medora	Bullion Buttes Dutchman's Barn Elkhorn Ranch Site Moody Plateau Wannagan Creek Whitetail Creek	Bighorn sheep Bighorn sheep Bighorn sheep Bighorn sheep Bighorn sheep Bighorn sheep	These areas are known to be current habitat or potential release sites
North Dakota	McKenzie	Burnt Creek Lone Butte Bennett Cottonwood Hanks Gully	Elk Bighorn sheep Bighorn sheep Bighorn sheep	Key habitat area These are known to be current habitat or potential release sites


CURTIS W. BATES
Forest Supervisor

5/21/93
Date

DECISION MEMO, NONSIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST, MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA
AMENDMENT NUMBER 18, RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS AND SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS
April 1993

DECISION MEMO

Decision: It is my decision to amend the Forest Plan by revising the table on pages 77 and 78 of the Forest Plan. I am revising this table to reflect the current status of Research Natural Areas (RNA), and also change some areas from candidate RNA status to candidate Special Interest Areas (SIA).

Rationale for the Decision: On July 10, 1991 Dale Robertson, Chief of the Forest Service signed the Designation Order establishing the Limber Pine Research Natural Area. This authority is in accordance with the regulations at 7 CFR 2.42, 36 CFR 251.23, and 36 CFR Part 219. On May 5, 1992 the Designation Order for the Sheyenne Springs Research Natural Area was signed under the same authority as listed above. Sheyenne Terrace #2 was shown as 95 acres in the Forest Plan, 57 acres met the criteria and were classified as the Sheyenne Springs RNA. The remaining 38 acres do not meet the criteria for classification as an RNA and will be managed as a part of the adjacent management area.

Some candidate RNA have been evaluated and determined to not meet the criteria for RNA classification. I am changing their status from candidate RNAs to candidate SIAs where appropriate. Until a feasibility determination is made, candidate SIAs will be managed the same as candidate RNAs.

NONSIGNIFICANT NFMA AMENDMENT: This decision does not significantly alter any of the long-term projections for output production on the Custer National Forest. There are no ground disturbing activities proposed, therefore an evaluation of effects related to threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants or animals is not needed. Therefore, this amendment is non-significant under NFMA (36 CFR 219.10(f)), and Forest Service Manual 1922.51, item 1 and 3.

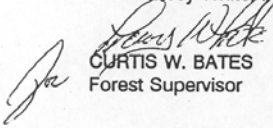
IMPLEMENTATION: This action will be implemented seven days after the legal notice appears in appropriate newspapers. This Decision Memo is public notice and will be sent to all those who have requested notice of Forest Plan amendments and those who have participated in the amendment process. In addition, notice of this decision will be published in local newspapers.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL: This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Any written notice of appeal to this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9, "Content of Notice of Appeal". As a minimum, a written notice of appeal filed with the reviewing officer must: 1) List the name, address, and telephone number of the appellant; 2) Identify the decision about which the requester objects; 3) Identify the document in which the decision is contained by title and subject, date of the decision, and name and title of the Deciding Officer; 4) Identify specifically that portion of the decision or decision document to which the requester objects; 5) State the reasons for objection, including issues of fact, law, regulation, or policy and if applicable specifically how the decision violates law, regulation, or policy, and ; 6) Identify the specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks, (36 CFR 217.9(b)). A written notice of appeal must be filed within 45 days of the date of this decision and sent to:

US Forest Service, Northern Region
David F. Jolly, Regional Forester
PO Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59801

CONTACT PERSON: Additional information can be obtained from:

Custer National Forest, PO Box 2556
Billings, Montana 59103, phone (406) 657-6361
Leroy White, Planning Program Officer


CURTIS W. BATES
Forest Supervisor

5/21/93
Date